

REMARKS

Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 remain pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 1.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0172109 (Fujita). Claims 3 and 9-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita in view of Japanese Patent Document No. 08-249695. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujita. Applicants traverse these rejections.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention is directed to an optical pickup device having an objective lens held by a lens holding body. The lens holding body is supported by a support body such that the lens holding body can be actuated in the focusing and tracking directions. The support body is held by an optical base such that the support body is rotatable. The support body rotates about an axis perpendicular to the focusing and tracking directions.

Thus, a lens holding body which is movable in the focusing direction is supported by a support body which is rotatable about an axis perpendicular to the focusing direction. This arrangement provides an optical pickup device which can be made thin and which has low power consumption.

The Office Action cites Fujita as teaching the above-discussed features of the present invention. Fujita describes an objective lens 103 which is held by lens unit 102

(having lens holder 102a). The lens unit 102 is supported by lens supporting structure 104. The Office Action seems to take the position that lens holding body 102a is moved in a focusing and tracking direction, while lens supporting structure 104 is rotatable. Applicants submit, however, that Fujita describes that lens holder 102a is both movable in the focusing direction and rotatable. Thus, Fujita does not describe that a lens holding body which is movable in the focusing and tracking directions is supported by a supporting body which is rotatable. Thus, Fujita does not describe the above-discussed features of the present invention.

JP 08-249695 (the '695 application) is directed to a tilt coordination mechanism. The Office Action cites the '695 application as describing a lens holding body situated inside an optical base and a driving mechanism which converts the torque of a motor to a driving force. Applicants submit that the '695 application describes that tilt adjustments are performed by tilting the entire optical pickup device. Such a description does not suggest the rotation of a support body in the manner recited in Claim 1. Moreover, the tilting of the entire optical pickup device described in the '695 application does not provide for a thin and efficient arrangement. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the '695 application does not remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Fujita.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that Fujita and the '695 application, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of a lens holding body for holding an objective lens and a support body for supporting the lens holding body so that the lens holding body is movable, wherein the support body is

rotatable around a rotation axis perpendicular to the moving direction of the lens holding body, as generally recited in independent Claim 1.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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